

**I claim:**

1. A locking device, comprising:
  - (A) a first body member having a first interior;
  - (B) a second body member having a second interior;
  - (C) a retainer element including a first end portion received in the first interior and a second end portion received in the second interior, said retainer element operative to mechanically link said first and second body members together for longitudinal movement between a collapsed orientation and an expanded orientation, said retainer element movable between a retain position wherein said retainer element secures the first and second body members in the collapsed orientation and a release position wherein said first and second body members may move between the collapsed orientation and said expanded orientation; and
  - (D) a lock core disposed in the first interior and operative to engage said retainer element, said lock core having a locked state wherein said retainer element is held in the retain position and movable to an unlocked state wherein said retainer element is moved from the retain position to said release position.
2. A locking device according to claim 1 including a shackle extending between said first and second body members and operative to enclose a locking region when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.
3. A locking device according to claim 1 including a sealing member positioned between said first and second body members whereby when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation, said sealing member facilitates a seal therebetween.
4. A locking device according to claim 1 including a catch in the second interior, said retainer element including a latch portion operative to engage said catch when said retainer element is in the retain position and to release from said catch when in the release position.
5. A locking device according to claim 4 wherein said retainer element includes a retaining head operative to engage said catch when said first and second body members are in the expanded orientation thereby to define a limit stop that prohibits movement of said first and second body members away from one another beyond the expanded orientation.

6. A locking device according to claim 4 wherein said catch is defined by a transverse pin, said latch portion including a latch groove formed in said retainer element sized and adapted to engage said pin.

7. A locking device according to claim 6 wherein said retainer element includes a retaining head operative to engage said pin when said first and second body members are in the expanded orientation thereby to define a limit stop that prohibits movement of said first and second body members away from one another beyond the expanded orientation.

8. A locking device according to claim 7 wherein said retainer element has a cam face extending between said retaining head and the latch groove and operative to permit movement of said pin therealong whereby said first and second body members may move between the expanded and collapsed orientations.

9. A locking device according to claim 1 wherein said first body member includes a first arm extending laterally thereof and wherein said second body member includes a second arm extending laterally thereof, said first and second arms being opposed to one another when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation and said retainer element is in the retain position.

10. A locking device according to claim 9 wherein said first and second arms are in generally parallel spaced-apart relation when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation and said retainer element is in the retain position.

11. A locking device according to claim 9 including an elongated shackle post disposed on a first one of said first and second arms and terminating in a free end.

12. A locking device according to claim 11 wherein a second one of said first and second arms includes a bore sized and adapted to matably engage the free end of said shackle post when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.

13. A locking device according to claim 1 wherein said first and second body members are rotatable with respect to one another about a rotational axis when in the expanded orientation.

14. A locking device according to claim 1 wherein the first end portion of said retainer element is rotatably disposed about a retainer axis in the first interior

and wherein the second end portion of said retainer element is rotatably disposed about the retainer axis in the second interior.

15. A locking device according to claim 14 wherein the retainer axis and the rotational axis are coaxial.

16. A locking device according to claim 14 wherein said lock core is rotatable mounted in the first interior such that said lock core rotates when it is moved between the locked and unlocked states thereby to rotate said retainer element between the retain and release positions.

17. A locking device according to claim 1 including a protective sleeve extending between said first and second body members, at least one of said first and second body members being longitudinally movably within said sleeve.

18. A locking device comprising:

(A) a first body member including a first housing portion and a first arm portion extending laterally of said first housing portion, said first housing portion having a first interior;

(B) a second body member including a second housing portion and a second arm portion extending laterally from said second housing portion, said second housing portion having a second interior;

(C) a retainer element including a first end portion rotatably received in the first interior and a second end portion rotatably received in the second interior, said retainer element operative to mechanically link said first and second body members together for longitudinal movement between a collapsed orientation and an expanded orientation, said retainer element rotatable about a longitudinally extending retainer axis between a retain position wherein said retainer element secures the first and second body members in the collapsed orientation and a release position wherein said first and second body members may be moved move between the collapsed orientation and said expanded orientation;

(D) a lock core disposed in the first interior and operative to engage said retainer element, said lock core rotatable between a locked state wherein said retainer element is placed in the retain position and an unlocked state wherein said retainer element is placed in the release position; and

(E) a shackle extending between said first and second arm portions and operative with said first and second body members to enclose a locking region when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.

19. A locking device according to claim 18 wherein said first housing portion includes a cylindrical nose projecting longitudinally thereof, the first interior being defined by a cylindrical nose bore formed in said nose and in communication with a cylindrical core bore formed in said first housing portion, said retainer element including a base received in the core bore and a shank portion extending longitudinally of said base and received in the nose bore and a latch portion projecting longitudinally outwardly of said nose.

20. A locking device according to claim 19 wherein the second interior of said second housing portion has a latch cavity sized and adapted to slideably receive said latch portion therein and a nose cavity sized and adapted to slideably receive said nose therein.

21. A locking device according to claim 20 including a catch in the second interior, said latch portion operative to engage said catch when said retainer element is in the retain position and to release from said catch when in the release position.

22. A locking device according to claim 21 wherein said retainer element includes a retaining head operative to engage said catch when said first and second body members are in the expanded orientation thereby to define a limit stop that prohibits movement of said first and second body members away from one another beyond the expanded orientation.

23. A locking device according to claim 22 wherein said catch is defined by a transverse pin, said latch portion including a latch groove formed therein in spaced relation to said retaining head and sized and adapted to engage said pin when in the retain position.

24. A locking device according to claim 23 wherein said retainer element has a cam face extending between said retaining head and the latch groove so as to permit movement of said pin therealong whereby said first and second body members may move between the expanded and collapsed orientations.

25. A locking device according to claim 19 including a seat associated with said nose and said including an O-ring sealing member positioned at said seat whereby, when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation, said sealing member facilitates a seal therebetween.

26. A locking device according to claim 18 wherein said retainer element includes limit stops operative to constrain said retainer element for rotational movement between first and second angular positions.

27. A locking device according to claim 18 including a cap member secured to said first body member and adapted to fit over an exposed face of said lock core.

28. A locking device according to claim 18 wherein said first and second arms are in generally parallel spaced-apart relation when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation and said retainer element is in the retain position.

29. A locking device according to claim 18 wherein said shackle is defined by an elongated shackle post disposed on a first one of said first and second arms and terminating in a free end.

30. A locking device according to claim 29 wherein a second one of said first and second arms includes a bore sized and adapted to matably engage the free end of said shackle post when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.

31. A locking device according to claim 18 wherein said first and second body members are rotatable with respect to one another about a rotational axis when in the expanded orientation.

32. A locking device according to claim 31 wherein the retainer axis and the rotational axis are coaxial.

33. A locking device according to claim 18 wherein said lock core is key actuable.

34. A locking device according to claim 18 including a protective sleeve extending between said first and second housings, at least one of said first and second housings being longitudinally movably within said sleeve.

35. A locking device comprising:

(A) a first body member including a first housing portion and a first arm portion extending laterally of said first housing portion, said first housing portion having a first interior;

(B) a second body member including a second housing portion and a second arm portion extending laterally from said second housing portion, said second housing portion having a second interior with a catch therein;

(C) a retainer element including a first end portion rotatably received in the first interior and a latch portion longitudinally extending out of said first housing and rotatably received in the second interior so as to selectively engage said catch, said

retainer element operative to mechanically link said first and second body members together for longitudinal movement between a collapsed orientation and an expanded orientation and such that said first and second housing portions are linked for rotational movement about a longitudinally extending rotational axis, said retainer element rotatable about a longitudinally extending retainer axis between a retain position wherein said latch portion engages said catch when said retainer element is in the retain position thereby to secure the first and second body members in the collapsed orientation and releases from said catch when in the release position whereby said first and second body members may be moved between the collapsed orientation and the expanded orientation;

(D) a lock core disposed in the first interior and operative to engage said retainer element, said lock core rotatable between a locked state wherein said retainer element is placed in the retain position and an unlocked state wherein said retainer element is placed in the release position; and

(E) a shackle extending between said first and second arm portions and operative with said first and second body members to enclose a locking region when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.

36. A locking device according to claim 35 wherein the rotational axis and the retainer axis are co-axial.

37. A locking device according to claim 35 wherein said first and second housing portions may be rotated 360° when said first and second body members are in the expanded orientation.

38. A locking device according to claim 35 wherein said first housing portion includes a cylindrical nose projecting laterally thereof, the first interior being defined by a cylindrical nose bore formed in said nose and in communication with a cylindrical core bore formed in said first housing portion, said retainer element including a base received in the core bore and a shank portion extending longitudinally of said base and received in the nose bore with said latch portion projecting longitudinally outwardly of said nose portion.

39. A locking device according to claim 38 wherein the second interior of said second housing portion has a latch cavity sized and adapted to rotatably and slideably receive said latch portion therein and a nose cavity sized and adapted to rotatably and slideably receive said nose portion therein.

40. A locking device according to claim 39 wherein said second housing has an outer rim and including a sealing member positioned on said nose and operative to facilitate a seal between said first housing and the rim of said second housing when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.

41. A locking device according to claim 35 wherein said latch portion includes a retaining head operative to engage said catch when said first and second body members are in the expanded orientation thereby to define a limit stop that prohibits movement of said first and second body members away from one another beyond the expanded orientation.

42. A locking device according to claim 41 wherein said catch is defined by a transverse pin, said latch portion including a groove formed in said latch portion element in spaced relation to said retaining head and sized and adapted to engage said pin when in the retain position.

43. A locking device according to claim 42 wherein said retainer element has a flat cam face extending longitudinally between said retaining head and the latch groove so as to permit movement of said pin therealong whereby said first and second body members may move between the expanded and collapsed orientations.

44. A locking device according to claim 35 wherein said retainer element includes limit stops operative to constrain said retainer element for rotational movement between first and second angular positions.

45. A locking device, comprising:

(A) a first body member;

(B) a second body member;

(C) retainer means for linking said first and second body members together for longitudinal movement between a collapsed orientation and an expanded orientation and rotational movement when in the expanded orientation, said retainer means being movable between a retain position wherein said first and second body members are secured in the collapsed orientation and a release position wherein said first and second body members may move between the collapsed orientation and said expanded orientation; and

(D) key actuable lock means for engaging said retainer means and being movable between a locked state wherein said retainer means is held in the retain position and an unlocked state wherein said retainer means is moved from the retain position to said release position.

46. A locking device according to claim 45 including shackle means extending between said first and second body members and operative to enclose a locking region when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation.

47. A locking device according to claim 45 wherein said first body member includes a first arm extending laterally thereof and wherein said second body member includes a second arm extending laterally thereof, said first and second arms being opposed to one another when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation and said retainer element is in the retain position.

48. A locking device according to claim 47 wherein said first and second arms are in generally parallel spaced-apart relation when said first and second body members are in the collapsed orientation and said retainer means is in the retain position.

49. A locking device according to claim 45 including an anti-rotation structure associated with said first and second body members and operative to prevent relative rotation therebetween when in the collapsed orientation.